

Serial No. 09/523,350
September 15, 2003
Reply to the Office Action dated June 16, 2003
Page 2 of 12

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method of firing magnetic cores comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies made of a magnetic material and having flattened through holes;

attaching a powder made of an organic material to an outer surface of the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies;

attaching the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies to one another so that axes of the flattened through-holes are vertically arranged;

firing the flattened-ring compact bodies while the powder is interposed between the adjacent flattened-ring compact bodies such that said powder is vaporized during the firing step; and

separating each of said plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies from the adjacently arranged plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies.

Claim 2 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of arranging includes arranging the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies in a plurality of rows that are adjacent to each other.

Claims 3-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to claim 3, wherein a bar is attached to each of a pair of sides of the stacked flattened-ring compact bodies.

Claim 6 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of

Serial No. 09/523,350
September 15, 2003
Reply to the Office Action dated June 16, 2003
Page 3 of 12

flattened-ring compact bodies are made of magnetic material.

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the powder comprises an organic material including particles having a particle size of not more than about 1,000 μm .

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the powder comprises an organic material including particles having a particle size of about 20 μm .

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method of firing magnetic cores comprising the steps of:

- providing a plurality of thin compact bodies made of a magnetic material and having flattened through holes;

- attaching a powder made of an organic powder to an outer surface of the plurality of thin compact bodies;

- vertically attaching the plurality of thin compact bodies to one another;

- firing the thin compact bodies while the powder is interposed between the adjacent thin compact bodies such that said powder is vaporized during the firing step;
- and

- separating each of said plurality of thin compact bodies from the adjacently arranged plurality of thin compact bodies.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of arranging includes arranging the plurality of thin compact bodies in a plurality of

Serial No. 09/523,350
September 15, 2003
Reply to the Office Action dated June 16, 2003
Page 4 of 12

rows that are adjacent to each other.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein before the step of attaching powder, the plurality of thin compact bodies are arranged so that axes of the flattened-through holes are horizontally arranged.

Claim 14 (original): The method according to claim 13, wherein after the step of attaching, the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies are stacked on each other in a vertical stacking direction.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein after the plurality of thin compact bodies are stacked on each other in a vertical stacking direction, the plurality of thin compact bodies are arranged so that axes of the flattened through-holes are vertically arranged while maintaining the stacked state and a bar is attached to each of a pair of sides of the stacked thin compact bodies.

Claim 16 (original): The method according to claim 11, wherein the plurality of flattened-ring compact bodies have one of a ring shape, an E-shape, a U-shape, an I shape, a rectangular shape including a central dividing member, and a square shape.

Claim 17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (original): The method according to claim 11, wherein the powder comprises an organic material including particles having a particle size of not more than about 1,000 μm .

Claim 19 (canceled).

Serial No. 09/523,350

September 15, 2003

Reply to the Office Action dated June 16, 2003

Page 5 of 12

Claim 20 (original): The method according to claim 11, wherein the powder comprises an organic material including particles having a particle size of about 20 μm .